

(12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(19) World Intellectual Property
Organization
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
20 October 2005 (20.10.2005)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 2005/097073 A1

(51) International Patent Classification⁷: **A61K 9/14**, 9/20,
9/22, 9/48, 9/52, 9/66, 9/70, A61F 2/00

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(21) International Application Number:
PCT/US2005/010801

(81) Designated States (*unless otherwise indicated, for every
kind of national protection available*): AE, AG, AL, AM,
AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN,
CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI,
GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE,
KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD,
MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NA, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG,
PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SM, SY, TJ,
TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA,
ZM, ZW.

(22) International Filing Date: 30 March 2005 (30.03.2005)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:
60/558,047 31 March 2004 (31.03.2004) US

(84) Designated States (*unless otherwise indicated, for every
kind of regional protection available*): ARIPO (BW, GH,
GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, NA, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM,
ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM),
European (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI,
FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IS, IT, LT, LU, MC, NL, PL, PT, RO,
SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN,
GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

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Published:

— with international search report

*For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guid-
ance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the begin-
ning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.*

(54) Title: **MACROMOLECULAR DELIVERY SYSTEMS FOR NON-INVASIVE IMAGING, EVALUATION AND TREAT-
MENT OF ARTHRITIS AND OTHER INFLAMMATORY DISEASES**

(57) Abstract: This invention relates to biotechnology, more particularly, to water-soluble polymeric delivery systems for the imag-
ing, evaluation and/or treatment of rheumatoid arthritis and other inflammatory diseases. Using modern MR imaging techniques,
the specific accumulation of macromolecules in arthritic joints in adjuvant-induced arthritis in rats is demonstrated. The strong cor-
relation between the uptake and retention of the MR contrast agent labeled polymer with histopathological features of inflammation
and local tissue damage demonstrates the practical applications of the macromolecular delivery system of the invention.

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